Feb 1977

The MESSENGER

THE UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

ST. STEPHEN'S & **Milnrow Littleborough**

Price: 4p

ST. STEPHEN'S DIARY.

FEBRUARY.

Tues. 1. Ladies Guild - 7.30 pm.

Weds. 2. District Women's Work A.G.M. at Milton, Rochdale - 7.[illegible] pm.

Sun. 6. Family Service - 11 am. - Rev. A. Nash
Evening Communion - 6 pm.

Mon. 7. Pilots - 6.30 pm. - and each Monday

Weds. 9. Elders Meeting - 7.30 pm.

Sun. 13. Family Service - 11 a.m. - Mrs. Nash
Evening Worship - 6 p.m. -Mrs. Carnihan

Weds. 16. Junior Church Staff Meeting - 7.30 pm.

Fri. 18. Choir Practice at Moorhouse Methodst Church - re W.W.D.P. - 7.30 pm.

Sat/Sun. 19/20 - LADIES WEEK-END.

Sat. 19. Social Evening for the Family

Sun. 20. Special Services 11 am. & 6 pm.

Fri. 25. Choir Practice at Moorhouse Methodist (See Mrs. Baines for further details).

Sat. 26. Christian Rendezvous at Ogden Baptist - 7.30 pm.

Sun. 27. District Exchange Sunday -
11 a.m. - Mr M. Curtis
6 p.m. - Rev. S. Brock

MARCH.

Tues. 1. Ladies Guild Knit-In - 7.30pm.
(See page 7)

Fri. 4. Women's World Day of Prayer -
Services - 2 pm. St. Stephen's.
-7.30 pm. Moorhouse Methodist
This are for all ladies

N.B. Our Weekley Meetings are as follows:-
Mondays - Pilots - 6.30 pm.
Wednesdays - Young Mums - 2 pm.
Whist Drive - 7.30 pm.
Fridays - Youth Club - 7pm.

LITTLEBOROUGH DIARY

FEBRUARY

Wed. 2nd - Pilots 6.45 pm.
Sun. 6th - Mr. J. Lord 10-30 am.
Mon. 7th - Junior Church Staff A.G.M. - 7.30pm.
Wed. 9th - Pilots 6.45 pm.
Sun. 13th - Rev.A. Nash 10-30 am. & 6 pm.
Morning Family Communion and ordination of Elders.
Tues.15th - Ladies Guild - 7.30pm.
(Birthday Supper)
Wed. 16th - Pilots 6.45 pm.
Sun. 20th - Mrs. M. Nash - 10.30 a.m.
Wed. 23rd - Pilots 6.45 pm.
Thur.24th - Men's Fellowship - 7.30 pm.
(Mr.H.Isles - 'History of Tea').
Sun. 27th - Exchange Sunday in District - 10-30am.

MARCH

Tues. 1st - Branded Seconds Sale - 7.30 pm.
(In aid of Junior Church Funds).

ORGANIST/PIANIST

Feb. 6th - Mrs. M. Hill
" 13th am.- Miss L. Merrick
pm.- Mrs. M. Hill
" 20th - Miss L. Merrick
" 27th - Mrs. E. Cockcroft

Collections

DECEMBER 5th - £16.44
12th - £15.26
19th - £24.59
26th - £16.13

From The Manse.

February, 1977.

My dear friends,

Perhaps you were one of those who came along to the Church and learned about 'Operation Mobilisation' and the Logos Ship and its wonderful work. Speaking for myself I must say that it was stimulating to be made aware of this world-wide activity for the spreading of the Gospel and that there are so many people being reached in such an efficient way. From the beginning the whole venture has been prayer-centred and instances of the way God has answered the prayers of those engaged upon this part of His work are many.

Each day, and for all of us, there comes the need to sort out priorities and decide what things are important and what are not. Jesus tells us that the most important thing is to "seek first the Kingdom of God" and that if we do this, that God will take care of all our other needs.

The Logos Ship venture began with seeking God's will in prayer. It continues its work in prayer. It has its priorities right and what is demonstrably effective in this venture can be equally so when applied to other situations.

I am reminded also of a Church in my home town of Bristol that has taken as their priority "seek first the Kingdom of God". Only a few years ago the Church was in a very run-down state and threatened with closure. The change has been starling and God has more than fulfilled their needs, just as He promised He would. It was necessary however, to sort out priorities first and there was the temptation for them to say, "Let's put the building into repair first" or "Let's work to get lots of people into Church", but instead they said, "Let us seek

first God's Kingdom".

There is something for us all, for the Church, for the home and for the individual. If we would accept this as our priority and act on it, great things would happen for us all.

May God bless you all.

Your sincere friend,

ALFRED NASH.

Thought for the month:

God answers the prayers of His people,
providing all their needs
when they put His Kingdom first
on their programme.

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OBITUARY.

Robert Edmund Armstrong, of 204, Harbour Lane -- died 20th January - aged 76 years. The funeral service at Rochdale Crematorium was conducted by our Minister, Rev.A. Nash. Our thoughts and prayers are for Clara, relatives and friends in their sad loss.

"Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will not fear, for Thou art with me".

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FAMILY READINGS.

Feb.	6.	- Mr.I. Royle	- Col.1: 1-12
"	13.	- Kenneth Holden	- Luke 17: 11-19
"	20.	- Mrs.J.Cudworth	- Psalm 139: 1-12.
"	27.	- John Lynch	- Luke 12: 16-31.
Mar.	6.	- Mrs.A.Baines	- Luke 5: 27-32

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December Offerings ---- £101.01½

MILNROW NEWS

Joining with Fellow Christians. Happy times of fellowship have been enjoyed during January, when we have met with our friends from the Anglican Churches, Baptist and Methodist Churches in our area, for prayer and Christian Rendezvous.

May we invite you all to share this joyful "togetherness" when we hold our next "Christian Rendezvous" on Saturday, 26th February, at Ogden Baptist Church - 7.30 p.m. This is for young and old, so book the date and come along.

A reminder here that the Services in connection with the "Women's World Day of Prayer" will be held as follows on Friday, 4th March - 2 p.m. St. Stephens and 7.30 p.m. Moorhouse Methodist. Rehearsals for the Augmented Choir will be at Moorhouse Methodist Church on Friday, 18th and 25th February at 7.30 p.m. Please volunteer and see Mrs. A. Baines in this respect.

Remember in your prayers .....

. All sick folk known to us - also the many unknown to us personally.
. All who mourn the loss of loved ones the world over
. All who care for prisoners.
. All who teach in our Schools, Colleges, both in this land and overseas.
. All Christians who suffer because of their faith.

YOUTH CLUB

The youth club at Milnrow is now firmly established with a regular turnout which often exceeds 20 young people. Every Friday at 7 p.m. members take part in table tennis, darts and billiards, with a disco in the cellar run by some of the girls. Coffee and orange juice are available, and members are saving up the profits to buy new equipment, board games etc. The club hopes to take part in the Quiz Competition for Rochdale Youth this year, and we are open to more adventurous ideas for the future. We are always looking for new members and any over 12's who want to join us are most welcome.

Ladies Guild

Our January Meeting saw our A.G.M. with a few changes in Officers. Here is a list of our ladies serving us during this year of 1977.

President: Mrs. M. Nash
Vice President: Mrs. M. Howarth
Secretary: Mrs. B. Clarence
Treasurer: Mrs. M. Holden
Birthday Secretaries: Mrs. C. Armstrong and Mrs. C. Clough
Coach Bookings: Mrs. F. Butterworth
Committee Members: Mrs. E. Garside and Mrs. C. Wilkinson

We do thank Mrs. M. Mellor and Mrs. P. Royle for all they have done as Birthday Secretary and Treasurer respectively, for a number of years. They have served faithfully and well.

Our next Guild night is Tuesday, 1st February, when Mr. F. Simpson - Church Secretary at our Littleborough end - will speak to us on "Stamps". We know this will be a most interesting evening and invite you to come and join us.

On Sat/Sun. 19/20 February, we shall hold our "Ladies Weekend". Tickets will soon be available for the "Social Evening & Potato Pie Supper" on 19th February. We are sure you will wish to come and enjoy an evening with us.

Services on 20th Sunday will be chaired by our ladies, who will also render musical items &tc. Our Guest Speaker will be our own Minister Rev. Nash. Make this weekend widely known as possible.

An advance notice for March - on the 1st we shall have a Sponsored Knit-In- when women and men are invited to take part. All money raised on this occasion will go to enable us to hit our target of £250 for the Decorating Fund. This now stands at £192.

Our thanks to Mrs. Kath Reed for organising our trip to the Panto. Everybody who went had a grand time.

Children's Birthdays during February:-

At Littleborough - Karen Butterworth 2nd, Jane Hobbs 11t
Andrew Greenwood 19th, Paul Gregory 23rd.
At Milnrow - Jonathan Reed 2nd, Amanda Pugh 3rd, Carol Rawstron 14th, Carl Pinder 15th, Clement Jones 16th, Amanda Thornton 18th, Kathryn Walton 21st, Ian Calow 27th.

We wish you all "many happy returns" and God's blessing.

Growing in Prayer - by Catherine Brandt

Elizabeth Yates describes how the French Voyageurs who explored the inland waterways of North America prayed for each other on their journeys. As they paddled thei canoes through the dangerous waters of the Great Lakes, or portaged across difficult terrain, each man prayed. Not for himself, but for the man ahead of him and the man behind him. Prayer linked them together.

Frank Laubach once said that whenever he boarded an airplane, or entered a restaurant or a room, he prayed for everyone present. "The more unattractive a man is, the more we need to love him and to pray that he will become the man he can be".

Recently I heard a Minister suggest that when we are i serious trouble and are praying to God for help, we should also pray for others who might be in the same fix

Samuel said to the Israelites, "Far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord by ceasing to pray for you (1 Samuel 12:23).

Prayer is not only making our needs known to God, it is praying for others.

Read All About It

It has been suggested that there may be a demand in our Churches for Christian literature to be directly available. Suggestions have included stalls on Sundays to buy books, or a lending library. I feel you will a agree that these are ideal ways of growing in the knowledge of our Lord, and your comments and ideas will b appreciated by the Editor.

Today's Church ....

For all the good of God garnered in the Church from former ages .. GIVE THANKS.

For those whose words have made faith possible,
words of prayer and praise;
Of preaching and counsel.
For words that have made and nourished
companionship,
shared experience;
passed on knowledge;
kept men on their feet;
accept our joyful praises Lord and satisfy us
with your goodness.

For all the goodness of God,
Ignored, wasted, selfishly hoarded,
SHOW PENITENCE.

For the lost not found,
leaven unmixed in life's dough,
the great pearl not bought,
unwise stewardship,
talents buried in the ground,
foundations laid on sand,
the half dead passed by on the other side,
bestow your pardon, Lord, and satisfy us
with your goodness.

For all the good of God,
ready to be distributed, MAKE BOLD TO ASK.

For labourers to gather the harvest already
ripe, new skins to take the new wine,
readiness to put on the garments that suit
God's people, compassion, kindness, humility,
gentleness, patience, forbearance, forgiveness
and love, courage to go through the open door
before us, faith to move mountains,
Regard our urgent prayers, Lord, and satisfy us
with your goodness.

(Taken from "Praying with Jesus" - the Prayer Handbook for 1977).

LITTLEBOROUGH NEWS

Covenant Giving: If you pay tax and you are going to be doing so for the next seven years, would you like to covenant your weekly giving for the next seven years, and the Church can then claim the tax back?

The Church has just received a cheque for £35.02p from the tax office for the people who are already covenanting their gifts.

Please think it over seriously, and if you want a covenant form and/or more information, contact Mrs. P. Lightfoot. The covenant forms should be completed before the end of the tax year.

JUNIOR CHURCH

"BRANDED SECONDS" EVENING
1st March at 7.30 p.m.

Admission 10p, including refreshments (which we hope will be served by our Male Junior Church Staff !!!)

Proceeds in aid of Junior Church Funds.
Please come and do tell all your friends.

C.W.M.

Mrs. D. Leach wishes to thank everyone for the money contributed to C.W.M. The amount collected in December from the C.W.M. Boxes totalled £28.66p. Incidentally, if anyone would like a box there are one or two spare - so see Mrs. Leach.

A kettle filled with water heated to the boiling point makes a sound. If the mouth of the kettle is closed, the boiling water will force itself out.

Just so with the Christian .. He is filled and aflame with the love of Christ and cannot be silenced. He will sound off his faith. When his mouth is closed by threats, he will find ways to make the love of Christ in his life overflowinto the life of others. To speak and show the love of Christ is his great compulsion.

Jumble Sale

During your Spring Cleaning folks, please spare a thought (and jumble) for the C.W.M. Jumble Sale in April. Watch this space for further information in next month's "Messenger".

Troubles don't seem half so grim with someone by your side,
Someone who can help you, and in whom you can confide.
If we helped other folk, whose lives are often drab and grey,
What a wealth of hope and comfort we could bring the world today.

PILOTS

The Pilots "Sailed" into the New Year with a party on Wednesday, 5th January. The party was attended by over 30 children and they had a noisey, boisterous, but very enjoyable evening.

The quietest part of the evening was during Grace prior to a lovely party supper, which was beautifully prepared and served by some of the "Pilot Mums".

On behalf of the kids, Hilary and myself, I would like to say a big thank you to all who helped us.

BOB.

The Primary Department would like to wish "Auntie Peggy" a very Happy Birthday on the 12th February.

Our Thanks to all who helped with the Christmas Decorations, both in the schoolroom and in the Church.

During Morning Service on the 16th January, Mrs. Nash introduced her own version of "audience (or should I say congregation) participation", and this included all the age groups from 3 years old to nearly 83 years old, all going to the front of the Church. This was to illustrate the importance of each and every individual as part of the Church Family and also pointed out how empty the Church looked when you were not in your place each Sunday.

Although the fun was entered into and much enjoyed by all, there was certainly a good "message" for us all.

The Men's Fellowship had their Party on Thursday, 6th January, it was an informal evening around the fire, with an opening prayer and hymn, followed by a range of stories from Politics to Pakistan.

The Pennies-on-the-elbow Trick was skilfully executed by "Archie" in place of his "dance routine".

The supper which was served up last of all was lovely and much enjoyed by all concerned, even if the trifles were forgotten and had to be eaten from knees in front of the fire, after the tea.

Adults and Children alike thoroughly enjoyed their trip to Oldham Pantomine on Monday, 3rd January. The children "old and young" must have been hoarse with shouting during the performance, and the singing continued during the coach ride back to Littleborough, preventing some of us from having a "wee doze".....

One Sunday morning a minister had been telling his congregation that there was a sermon in every blade of grass.

The following day he was cutting the grass in front of the manse when one of his parishioners passed by.

"That's right, sir", the man called to the minister. "Keep them short!"

Ladies Guild

Although our numbers were rather small at our Jan. meeting, our enthusiasm made up for it. Our speaker Mr. Hall gave a very interesting, if somewhat distressing talk, on his work as a Social Worker in the Salford area. It really made us appreciate living in a comparatively affluent part of the country. One of the families described was very upsetting, and we all hope and pray that a solution may soon be found for such members of our Society.

An invitation is extended to all ladies to come along to our next Guild Meeting, which is on Tuesday 15th February, this will be a Birthday Supper evening.

A New Testament Roll of Honour

Find out:

1. He offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than his brother.
2. He was translated that he should not see death.
3. He prepared an ark to the saving of his house.
4. She was delivered of a child when she was past age.
5. He looked for a city which hath foundations whose builder and maker is God.
6. Whom Abraham offered up.
7. Two whom Isaac blessed.

Answers: Hebrews - Chapters 11 & 12.

A Motorist's Prayer.

Grant me, O Lord, a steady hand and watchful eye,
That no one shall be hurt when I pass by.
Thou gavest life, and pray no act of mine
May take away, nor mar, this gift of Thine.
Shelter those, dear Lord, who bear me company
From evils of fire and all calamity.
Teach me to use my car for others' need,
Nor miss, through love of speed, the beauty of
Thy world,
That thus I may, with joy and courtesy, go my way.

CHURCH DUTIES - LITTLEBOROUGH

DOOR STEWARDS

Feb. 6	Mrs.P. Lightfoot	Miss W. Law
" 13	Mr.T. Fielden	Mr.G. Simpson
" 20	Mrs. M. Hill	Mrs. K. Mills
" 27	Mr. R. Mullen	Mr. D. Armitage
March 6	Mr. J. Hill	Mr. E. Holt

COMMUNION ELDERS

Feb. 13 pm.	Mr. F. Simpson	Mr. J. Lord

FLOWERS

Feb. 6	Mrs. Mills
" 13	Mrs. Greenwood
" 20	Mrs. Rimmer
" 27	Mrs. Jackson
March. 6	Mrs. Walker

COFFEE ROTA

Feb. 6	Mrs. B.Macormack	Mrs.P.Lightfoot
" 13	Mrs.A. Merrick	Mrs.L. Butterworth
" 20	Mrs.J. Hey	Mrs.L. Stanton
" 27	Mrs.L. Mitchell	Mrs.P. Mullen
Mar. 6	Mrs.W. Spinks	Mrs. J. Hobbs

FAMILY CHURCH READINGS

Feb. 6	Mrs.J. Law	-- Col. 1:1-12
" 13	Mrs. Hammond	-- Luke 17: 11-19
" 20	Mrs.A. Stott	--Psalm 139: 1-12
" 27	Mrs.E. Dunwell	- Luke 12: 16-31
Mar. 6	Mrs.H. Vincent	- Luke 5: 27-32.

A reminder --

Please hand in Littleborough News and articles for 'The Messenger' to Mrs. P. Mullen by the 16th of the month. Thanks!

CHURCH DUTIES - MILNROW.

Family Church Door Stewards		
Feb. 6	Mrs. F. Butterworth	Mr. H. Mellor
" 13	Mrs. J. Duffy	Mrs. A. Baines
" 20	Mrs. B. Clarence	Mrs. P. Royle
" 27	Mrs. M. Holden	Kenneth Holdenn
Mar. 6	Mr. J. Harrison	Mr. I. Royle

ELDERS ROTA.

Evening Door Stewards		Duty Elder	Evening Organist
Feb. 6	Mr. B. Clough	Mrs. Howarth	Mr. D. Logan
" 13	Mrs. Howarth	Mr. B. Clough	Mrs. C. Hey
" 20	Mrs. J. Calow	Mrs. M. Holden	Mrs. E. Starkie
" 27	Mrs. E. Smith Mr. A. Sharples	Mr. H. Whitehead	Mrs. Bradbury
Mar. 6	Mr. A. Busill	Mr. J. Wild	Mr. D. Logan

ELDERS to serve COMMUNION

Feb. 6	Mr. J. Wild	Mr. A. Busill
Mar. 6	Mrs. M. Howarth	Mr. H. Whitehead

Family Church Coffee Rota

Feb. 6	Mrs. C. Hey	Mrs. M. Mellor
" 13	Miss M. Wood	Mrs. Andrew
" 20	Mrs. J. Calow	Mrs. E. Garside
" 27	Mrs. A. Wood	Mrs. M. Ogden
Mar. 6	Mrs. E. Smith	Mrs. H. Buckley

FLOWER ROTA

Feb. 6	Mrs. F. Cooper	
" 13	Mrs. F. Butterworth	Mrs. R. Rothwell
" 20	Mrs. Kenyon	
" 27	Mrs. H. Buckley	Mrs. E. Smith

(Our Flower Ladies, Mrs. F. Butterworth and Mrs. E. Prince will be glad to hear from you should you wish to place flowers in the Church).

MINISTER:

Rev A V J NASH BA
The Manse
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Milnrow

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CHURCH SECRETARIES

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